

# COOPERATION IN NEBRASKA

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## FFA Cooperative Speaking Contest

The Nebraska Cooperative Council, in partnership with the CHS Foundation, once again sponsored the Nebraska FFA Association's Cooperative Speaking Event. This makes the 60<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that the Council has provided support to the Nebraska FFA Association.

The State FFA Cooperative Speaking Event was held in conjunction with the State FFA Convention on April 6-8 in Lincoln.

This year, students from 62 schools from throughout the state participated in the district contests. From these, 23 were chosen to advance to the state competition.

The Cooperative Speaking Event is designed to provide students with the opportunity to research and develop a speech focusing on any topic relating to cooperatives. By participating in this event, students learn a great deal about cooperatives and the principles of cooperatives.

All of the students that participated at the state level did an excellent job and represented their communities very well.

Winning the 2011 FFA Cooperative Speaking Event was Brandy Reichmuth from the Humphrey FFA Chapter. She received a trophy, first place medal, and check for \$100 from the Nebraska Cooperative Council. Second place went to Amber Burenheide of the Howells-Clarkson FFA Chapter along with a medal and check for \$50. Third place went to Andrew Brittenham of the Superior FFA Chapter who received a medal and check for \$25.

Other medal winners in alphabetical order were:

Gold - Charity Burkey, Scottsbluff;



*Ed Woeppel (right) presented the 1st place trophy and ribbon in the 2011 State Cooperative Speaking Contest to Brandy Reichmuth from the Humphrey FFA Chapter at the Awards Presentation on April 8.*

Brooke Cuba, Twin River; MaKenzie Kalkowski, Wisner-Pilger; Alix Mashino, West Boyd; and Turner Moore, Syracuse

Silver - Jessica Bartak, Ainsworth; Jayde Bensen, Pender; AnnaLisa Glenn, Greeley-Wolbach; Haley Gunnink, Cody-Kilgore; Natasha Hongsermeier, Aurora; Faith Huneke, Wilber-Clatonia; Lexy Nuesch, Pierce; and Melissa Woeppel, Norris

Bronze - Marissa Christiancy, Franklin; Caroline Cooke, Verdigre; Jourdan Matthies, Gothenburg; Chelsea Nealon, Elba; Devynn Patocka, Mead; Megan Portiner, Gothenburg; and McKehna Thiem, Crete

### Our Sincere Appreciation to CoBank

CoBank has provided a generous donation of \$10,000 to the Council to be used for educational programming. This donation fulfills a three-year commitment that CoBank made to Council education programs in 2009. CoBank has partnered with the Council for many, many years to help the Council achieve its educational mission. This contribution once again emphasizes the commitment that CoBank has for director education for Nebraska cooperatives.

# Mini Bulk Tank Recycling Program



The Nebraska Department of Ag, the Nebraska Agribusiness

Assn., Nebraska Cooperative Council, UNL-Extension, and the Nebraska Aviation Trades Assn. are working with TRI-Rinse Inc. to promote recycling of unusable mini-bulk pesticide tanks. This program will provide retailers with the opportunity to remove outdated empty mini-bulk containers from their property.

## 2011 Legislative Session

The first session of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Legislature adjourned on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The adjournment was on day 87 of the session which was 3 days earlier than originally scheduled.

This year's session was dominated by the budget. Other issues that drew considerable attention were reforming the Commission of Industrial Relations and redrawing the legislative and congressional district boundaries.

During the session, senators introduced more than 125 interim studies. These studies are conducted to help educate senators and the general public regarding important statewide issues. The Council will monitor a number of these studies that could impact cooperatives.

Throughout the legislative session, the Council provided regular *Legislative Updates* (28 in total) regarding issues important to cooperatives. In our *Annual Report*, which will be published in September, we will provide a complete rundown of the legislative issues that we monitored this year.

Due to the changes in the new EPA Pesticide Container and Containment Rule that will go into effect on August 16, 2011, numerous plastic mini-bulk tanks will become unusable this summer. Any non-compliant tanks will need to be retrofitted or taken out of service.

This program is available to recycle stand-alone and/or caged pesticide mini-bulk tanks of 85 to 350 gallon capacity. This program will help solve the challenge of increasing stockpiles of old, damaged or non-compliant mini-bulk tanks that are taking up space in warehouses, equipment lots and storage facilities.

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, the NE Department of Ag (NDA) sent a letter to all fertilizer and pesticide dealers outlining the steps that must be taken in order to participate in this program.

In the NDA letter there is an inventory form. You must complete the inventory form and return it to TRI-Rinse Inc. Be sure to include the chemical name (common name or trade

name), chemical manufacturer, and tank size for each tank on the inventory form. Only respondents that have provided this information will be contacted with the dates and times of the collections.

TRI-Rinse will require advance payment along with the inventory/registration of the mini-bulk tanks. The recycling fee is \$15 per tank.

TRI-Rinse will provide detailed instructions to dealers for the preparation of the tanks. Collections will begin in late summer or early fall.

Only plastic containers will be accepted. Steel and fiberglass containers will not be accepted.

This program is for dealers only. If individual farmers want to participate, they need to work with their local dealer to get tanks inventoried and recycled.

If you have questions, contact Clyde Ogg (800/627-7216) at UNL or Tim Creger (877/800-4080) at the NE Dept. of Ag.

## Summer Ag Teachers Convention

The Council, in partnership with the CHS Foundation, provided support for a break at the Nebraska Ag Teachers Summer Convention which was held June 6-9 in Kearney.

As part of the sponsorship, Ed Woeppel provided remarks from the cooperative system to the teachers. In his remarks, Woeppel indicated that just as the cooperative system in Nebraska is "special", so to are the ag education/FFA programs in the state. Woeppel indicated that while cooperatives have gone through significant structural change over the years, the mission remains the same. That mission is to provide value to the members of the cooperative.

Woeppel reminded the group that cooperatives continue to positively impact rural communities. This is evidenced by the fact that cooperatives returned over \$69 million in patronage refunds and equity redemption to their members this past year. In addition, he indicated that cooperatives invested over \$78 million in new facilities and equipment with most of that investment occurring in Nebraska's smallest communities.

# Hall of Fame Nominations Being Accepted

Nominations are currently being accepted for induction into the NCC Cooperative Hall of Fame. The mission of the HOF is to ensure permanent, prestigious recognition of these cooperative leaders for future generations.

Over the past 12 years, 53 cooperative leaders have joined the Hall of Fame, and this year up to 2 more individuals may join the group.

Criteria for possible induction into the Hall of Fame is as follows:

- Individuals whose leadership was instrumental in the growth and service of their respective cooperative's patrons/members and/or to their agricultural cooperatives
- Individuals whose leadership fostered and promoted unity and a common approach to agricultural cooperative associations and/or organizations in which they had a common interest
- Individuals whose leadership fostered, improved, and promoted a better understanding of the principles and practices of agricultural cooperatives and the cooperative way of doing business
- Those whose leadership was instrumental in the defense, protection, and enhancement of the agricultural cooperative movement

Though current Nebraska residence is not required, contributors to the cooperative community must have affected Nebraska.

Nominees must have been retired for a period of 5 years or longer for all categories except "Supporters of Cooperatives" which must be 3 years.

The Hall of Fame Selection Committee is solely responsible for the selection of the inductees. The Board-appointed Committee is made up of Stan Hillius of Kearney (Chair), Daryl Erickson of Greenwood, Virgil Harms of Blue Springs, Bill Henry of North Platte, and Tom Osborn of Battle Creek.

The NCC Hall of Fame program is intended to be cooperative inclusive; meaning, any and all cooperative leaders are eligible regardless of their affiliation.

Council members are encouraged to submit nominations of individuals for the Hall of Fame. We encourage you to take some time to visit with your board and discuss any potential nominees you may have. All nominations must be submitted on the 2011 Cooperative Hall of Fame Nomination Form which is available on our website at [www.nebr.coop](http://www.nebr.coop) or by calling the Council office at 402/475-6555. Please provide as much background information as possible on your nominee as this helps the Selection Committee in making their decision. Letters of support are also encouraged. The

nomination form and supporting letters must be received in the Council office no later than July 22, 2011 at

Hall of Fame Selection Committee  
Nebraska Cooperative Council  
134 South 13th St., Ste 503  
Lincoln, NE 68508-1901

The induction ceremony will be held in conjunction with the Council's Annual Meeting on Friday, November 18, 2011, at the Holiday Inn & Convention Center in Kearney.

## PSC Approves Rates

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC), conducted a public hearing on both Schedule "A" and "E" which govern the maximum rates for state licensed grain warehouses for Receiving and Handling (R&H) grain, as well as Storage and Insuring (S&I).

Prior to the hearing, the Council's Grain-Adhoc Advisory Committee reviewed the existing PSC rules, rates, and notes. The committee recommended to the Council's Board of Directors that no changes be made to Schedule A or E.

The PSC commissioners met on May 17<sup>th</sup>, and at that meeting voted to maintain the current A&E schedules below:

### SCHEDULE "A" RATES

The following schedule "A" rates and charges apply to state-licensed public grain warehouses commencing May 17, 2011.

These charges shall be full compensation for receiving, handling, storing, delivering and insuring of commodities listed

Commodity	Receiving, Handling, and Delivering by Truck, Rail or Barge	Storage and Insuring
	Cents Per Bushel One-Time Combined Charge	Thousandths of a Cent Per Bushel Per Day
	Shall Not Exceed	Not to Exceed
Barley	33	150
Corn	33	150
Grain Sorghum	33	150
Millet	33	150
Oats	33	150
Rye	33	150
Soybeans	33	170
Sunflower Seed	33	150
Wheat	33	150
Grain Bank Grain	Receiving and handling included in storage rates	150

### Schedule "E" Rates

Covering Dry Edible Beans and Popcorn  
Received by Truck or Rail

These Schedule E charges shall be the maximum compensation allowed for receiving, handling, storing, and delivering and insuring. Warehouses may charge less than the rates listed below.

	Storage & Insurance	Receiving Charge	Delivering Charge
Dry Edible Beans	Not to exceed .0039 per cwt. per day	15 cents per cwt.	15 cents per cwt.
Popcorn	Not to exceed .0025 per cwt. per day	A one-time combined charge not to exceed 30 cents per cwt.	

# 2011/12 Education Programs

## **\*\* NEW EMPHASIS \*\***

This spring the Council's Board and Excellence in Cooperative Education Committee (ECEC) have spent a great deal of time evaluating the current educational programs as well as determining the future direction of educational programming. One of the reasons for this in-depth study was due to the expiration of our NCC Distinguished Professorship agreement with the University of Nebraska.

After considerable study, the Board and ECEC concluded that the Council's educational programs would be best served if we did not renew our Distinguished Professorship agreement with UNL. While this was a difficult decision, the driving force behind it was the rapidly changing environment that cooperative businesses operate in.

The increased volatility of the marketplace has resulted in the need for a much more sophisticated management team. The Board and ECEC have recognized this and are adamant that our educational programs need to be

increasingly sophisticated to keep pace. The Board and ECEC believe that due to the complexities of our businesses, we must have "experts" with a passion for cooperatives as presenters in every area of our educational programming. Unfortunately due to budgeting and staffing constraints, the University of Nebraska is not currently able to meet our needs.

With this change, the Council will be able to leverage the dollars that had gone to the University to support the NCC Distinguished Professorship. These dollars can now be used to bring in individual "experts" in the various topics that are identified by the membership.

Essentially we can bring in experts from around the country to provide the more highly sophisticated and complex training that our management teams will need in the future.

With this new direction set, Council staff has been focusing on providing both traditional programming for this coming winter as well as providing new programs to meet the needs of modern cooperative management teams. While some of the programs may have the same title, the content and presenters will change significantly to provide participants with the highest quality training possible.

We want to be clear that this does not end our relationship with the University of Nebraska. We will still provide scholarships to ag economics students and provide assistance to UNL classes as requested.



*visit our website at  
[www.nebr.coop](http://www.nebr.coop)*

### NEBRASKA COOPERATIVE COUNCIL

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## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS...

### June 2011

29 NCC Board of Directors Meeting - North Platte

### July 2011

22 Deadline to submit NCC Cooperative Hall of Fame Nominations

### November 2011

17 NCC Board and Committee Meetings - Kearney Holiday Inn  
18 NCC Annual Meeting - Kearney Holiday Inn

### December 2011

13 Director/Manager Workshop - Ogallala Valentino's Conference Room  
14 Director/Manager Workshop - York Holiday Inn

### January 2012

3-4 Director Certification Program - Kearney Holiday Inn  
30 Board Officer Seminar - Lincoln Embassy Suites  
31 Special Director Seminar - Lincoln Embassy Suites

### February 2012

9 Cooperative Symposium - Lincoln Embassy Suites  
10 Cooperatives For Tomorrow - Lincoln Embassy Suites  
16 NCC Board of Directors Meeting - Lincoln

## NCC RADIO SPOTS

The Nebraska Rural Radio Network provides the Council with complimentary network airtime to present a 3-4 minute update on current cooperative issues. We use this when we have key information to provide to the membership. This allows the Council to have one more method of communicating with our members.

The radio spots air at approximately 1:15pm MT on KNEB and at 2:17 pm CT on KRVN and KTIC. Our scheduled air times over the next few months are:

June 24                      August 5 & 19  
July 8 & 22                Sept. 2, 16 & 30